

Plus Four Knickers for Fun

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Knickers or Plus Four trousers certainly set a style in the Model A Era. The look was one of fun and carefree activity. While the origin of knickers and Plus Fours came from the early 19th century, the practical use for men and women were on the sporting fields, shooting range, golf courses, and for a casual drive in a sporty Model A roadster.

They were called plus fours because they bagged below the knee and were 4" longer than knickerbockers. Plus fours were made in tweeds, linen, corduroy, flannel, and wool. Today women, men, or youth can wear a pair of Plus Fours either in the Original Category fashion judging or in the Era Image Category. Appropriate Coordinating Apparel would be a long sleeved shirt with a sweater vest, a patterned sweater, or a matching or contrasting suit jacket. A jacket belted in the back, made the outfit more "sporty" looking. The heavy argyle socks worn with tie shoes were often the first features noticed by others. Sometimes the socks and sweater were matching to add a daring flare to the ensemble. For accessories, a man, or woman might use a golf club, a road map, a suitcase, or a walking stick. For youth, accessories might be sporting or camping equipment or schoolbooks.



Fashion enthusiasts can make their own pair of Plus Fours from a pair of roomy trousers with or without front pleats, measure 10-12 inches from cuff and mark this line with safety pins. Try on pants, sit down, and make sure you have plenty of comfort room to bend your knees plus an extra 1/2 inch for the seam allowance. The safety pinned line should

not curve up your knee but be parallel to the floor. If necessary, adjust the whole line. You can always trim length, but not add it back on. When you are satisfied your knees will have plenty of bending (sitting) room, and then cut the excess lower leg fabric. Save the cuff cut off the trouser leg for making the band that will fit just below the knee. Fasteners on the band can ease putting the Plus Fours on and will help to hold the band in place below the knee.



Another option is to make a casing, inserting wide elastic that measures the circumference of your leg just below your knee. The extra length of fabric will fall over the band creating the ballooning of the fabric, which gives Plus Fours the characteristic style.

As more Model A enthusiasts are finding Era Image a comfortable way to travel, wearing a pair of Plus Fours while driving your Model A will add value to your experience and will certainly catch the eye of onlookers!

Enjoy driving all year long in your favorite pair of knickers or Plus Fours



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MAFCA Fashion Guidelines, 2015 Edition
Driving in Style, MARC August 2019
December 2010 Phoenix Magazine, Phoenix in the 1920s